

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05

FS-01 MMO-01 SCCT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-13 SAM-01 SAB-01

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O P 211258Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1261

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 23

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6479

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

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SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 21: PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS

STILL AT LOGGERHEADS; GENERALLMILITARY LULL EXCEPT IN METN;  
LOCAL TELL ZAATAR CEASEFIRE AND WOUNDED EVACUATION PLAN AGAIN FAILS

REF: BEIRUT 6447

1. SUMMARY: ASSAD SPEECH EVOKES PREDICTABLE REACTION AMONG PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP, BUT THEY MAY STILL BELIEVE DIALOGUE WITH ASSAD IS POSSIBLE. BEIRUT OBSERVERS SEE SPEECH AS EFFORT DEFLECT ACCUSATIONS OF CONSPIRACY TO PARTITION LEBANON TO PALESTINIANS. PRELIMINARY PALESTIANIAN DELEGATION DEPARTED FOR DAMASCUS BUT TURNED BACK. POSSIBILITY STILL EXISTS THAT DELEGATION WILL GO, ACCOMPANIED BY LIBYAN PREMIER JALLOUD. BATTLE IN METN HEATING UP. ELSEWHERE, MILITARY ACTIVITY AT LOW LEVEL. PLO, KATAEB, ARAB LEAGUE AND ICRC SIGNED AGREEMENT JULY 20 ON LOCAL CEASEFIRE AT TELL ZAATAR AND PROTECTED PASSAGE ROUTE FROM CAMP TO WEST BEIRUT TO BEGIN EARLY JULY 21 TO EVACUATE PALESTINIAN WOUNDED AND PERHAPS PRISONERS, BUT PLAN SCUTTLED BY HOSTILE FIRE ON ROUTE AND FIGHTING AT TELL ZAATAR. OTHER ACCORDS ALSO ON ELECTRICITY, WATER AND FUEL SUPPLIES. SARKIS SEES FRANJIEH. ISLAMIC GROUP POSITION ON SYRIAN INTERVENTION AMBIGUOUS. FUEL DELIVERIES TO PERMIT OPERATION OF ZOUK POWER PLANT ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. PALESTINAINS ENRAGED BY JULY 20 ASSAD SPEECH DECLARING SYRIANS WILL NOT RETREAT FROM LEBANON EXCEPT AT REQUEST FRANJIEH OR OTHER LEGAL AUTHORITY. TACIT ASSAD "ENDORSEMENT" OF FRANJIEH BY NOT MENTIONING SARKIS IS SEEN AS ANOTHER INDICATOR OF HARDENING SYRIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS. ONE PLO SOURCE SAID "ASSAD'S GREATEST SIN WAS TO SAY FRANJIEH IS AN HONORABLE MAN." ANOTHER PALESTINIAN SOURCE SAID PRIVATELY THAT, DESPITE HARSH TONE OF SPEECH, ASSAD SEEMED TO BE LEAVING OPENINGS FOR COMPROMISE.

3. THREE-HOUR ASSAD DISCOURSE ACCUSED PALESTINIANS AND KAMAL JUMBLATT OF THROWING OIL ON LEBANESE FIRE AND SAID PALESTINIANS HAVE NO REPEAT NO RIGHT DEMAND SYRIAN RETREAT. OBSERVERS HERE SEE THIS TO MEAN ASSAD  
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EFFECTIVELY REJECTS PALESTINIAN DEMAND FOR SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. ASSAD WARNING, THAT MILITARY SOLUTION IN LEBANON RISKS ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE MORE DANGEROUS TO ARABS THAN ISRAEL, SEEN AS CALCULATED HAVE DOUBLE MEANING: ASSAD MAY BE ACCUSING PALESTINIANS OF DESIRING ESTABLISH STATE OF "NORTH PALESTINE" IN SOUTH LEBANON, THUS SHIFTING ACCUSATION OF SEEKING PARTITION FROM CHRISTIANS TO PALESTINIANS. ASSAD INSISTENCE

SYRIA WISHES SAVE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE FROM "THE  
PLOT" SEEN ALSO AS ATTEMPT SHIFT ACCUSATION OF  
CONSPIRACY FROM STYW S AND CHRISTIANS TO PRESENT  
PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP.H

4. PLO POLITICAL BUREAU CHIEF FAROUK KADDOUMI SET  
OUT FOR DAMASCUS JULY 20 BUT TURNED BACK FOR UNEXPLAINED  
REASONS BEFORE REACHING SYRIA AND BEFORE ASSAD SPEECH,  
BUT PERHAPS AFTER HE LEARNED RESULTS OF JALLOUD  
CONTACTS IN DAMASCUS. JALLOUD RETURNED BEIRUT WITH  
SYRIAN INVITATION TO ARAFAT TO HEAD DELEGATION WITH  
DECISION-MAKING POWERS, BUT PALESTINIANS STILL NOT  
WILLING SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION BEFORE SYRIANS  
WITHDRAW FROM SOUTH LEBANON AND SOFAR. SYRIANS  
BELIEVE ATTEMPTING IMPOSE CHANGES IN PLO LEADERSHIP.  
HESITANCY OF ARAFAT AND OTHERS MAY STEM FROM MEMORY  
THAT GEORGE HABASH WAS JAILED BY SYRIANS IN LATE  
1960'S WHEN HE VISITED DAMASCUS. JALLOUD EXPECTED  
MEET AGAIN JULY 21 IN BEIRUT WITH PALESTINIAN LEADERS  
AMIDST RUMORS HE WILL ACCOMPANY PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO DAMASCUS.

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DPW-01 DHA-02 AID-05 /107 W  
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O P 211258Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1262

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 24

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

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CIA WASHDC  
COMSIXTHFLT  
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CTF SIX ZERO  
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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO  
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA  
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CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6479

STUTTGART FOR ELG

5. BATTLE OF THE METN CONTINUES MAINLY IN FORM  
MUTUAL BOMBARDMENTS. RIGHTIST FORCES SEEN PREPARING  
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MAJOR PUSH ON AINTOURA IN ORDER OPEN ROAD TO MAINLY  
CHRISTIAN TOWN OF ZAHLE NOW ISOLATED BY PALESTINIAN/  
LEFTIST CONCENTRATIONS AT AINTOURA, MTEIN AND TARCHICHE.  
ARTILLERY DUELS BETWEEN SYRIANS AT SOFAR AND PALESTINIANS  
AT HAMMANA. SYRIANS ALSO SAID SHELLING AINTOURA FROM  
POSITIONS AT BAR ELIAS. SYRIAN ARTILLERY CONTINUES HIT  
PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS ON HEIGHTS OF HEZZERTA FROM  
POSITIONS AT KAH EL-RIM NEAR ZAHLE.

6. IN NORTH, SYRIANS CONTINUE BOMBARD TRIPOLI AND EXERT  
PRESSURE ON NAHR EL-BARED CAMP. WE UNDERSTAND SYRIANS  
MOVING ON TURBEL MOUNTAIN IN ORDER TAKE MOSLEM VILLAGES  
OVERLOOKING CHRISTIAN ZGHORTA, WHICH CONTINUES MUTUAL  
BOMBARDMENTS WITH TRIPOLI. SYRIANS MEETING SOME  
RESISTANCE AND ADVANCING VERY SLOWLY. PRESS REPORTS  
CLAIM 30,000 PERSONS FLED KOURA FOR REFUGE IN TRIPOLI  
DURING RECENT CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE.

7. BEIRUT TRADITIONAL CONFRONTATION AREAS STILL IN LULL,  
BUT SUBURBS REMAIN HOT. SHELLING CONTINUED JULY 20 AT  
TELL ZAATAR AND RIGHTIST FORCES SAID MASSING AT DORA  
FOR WHAT LOOKS LIKE NABAA ATTACK PREPARATION.  
NABAA UNDER INTENSE BOMBARDMENT FROM CHRISTIAN ARTILLERY.  
UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS HAVE  
CLASHED WITH ARMENIANS OF BOURJ HAMMOUND WHO ARE  
ATTEMPTING REMAIN NEUTRAL WHILE FORTIFYING NEIGHBORHOODS  
AGAINST ATTACK. SOUTH OF BEIRUT, SITUATION REMAINS  
STATIC WITH SIDON QUIET; CONTINUED REPORTS OF ISOLATED

MINOR INCIDENTS BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND VILLAGERS, AND  
REPORT THAT A KEY BRIDGE ON SIDON-JEZZINE ROAD  
DESTROYED, EFFECTIVELY CUTTING ROUTE.

8. "CORAL BEACH" (HOTEL) ACCORD ON PASSAGE ACROSS  
CITY CONFRONTATION LINE SIGNED JULY 20 BY GENERAL  
GHONEIM, COMMANDER OF AL FORCES, AND REPRESENTATIVES  
OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND KATAEB PARTY CONFIRMS  
ARAFAT/ALEXANDER GEMAYEL AGREEMENT OF JULY 19.  
MUSEUM AREA WAS TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO DEMILITARIZED  
BUFFER ZONE UNDER SAUDI AND SUDANESE AL FORCES,  
BEGINNING EARLY JULY 21. A TRUCE AT TELL ZAATAR FROM  
0900 TO 1400 WAS SUPPOSED TO ALLOW EVACUATIONS OF  
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WOUNDED AND PERHAPS ALSO REMAINING PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS  
IN FACE-SAVING MOVE. ICRC HOPED EVACUATE 100 WOUNDED  
EACH DAY BEGINNING JULY 21. SOME 1000 WOUNDED BELIEVED  
IN CAMP. AL FORCE DEPLOYED IN MUSEUM AREA EARLY JULY 21, BUT  
RECEIVED HOSTILE FIRE FROM ONE OR BOTH SIDES, AND TOOK SEVERAL  
CASUALTIES. ICRC RECONNAISSANCE VEHICLE LATE MORNING JULY 21  
COULD NOT ENTER TELL ZAATAR BECAUSE OF FIGHTING IN AREA AND  
CONVOYS TO REMOVE WOUNDED CANCELLED. THIS IS FOURTH UNSUCCESSFUL  
ICRC ATTEMPT ARRANGE EVACUATION FROM TELL ZAATAR. ACCORD ALSO  
INCLUDED MEASURES DELIVER FUEL TO ZOUK THERMAL ELECTRICAL CENTER  
AND INSURE DISTRIBUTION OF WATER AND ELECTRICITY. ACCORD  
SIGNERS SCHEDULED MEET AGAIN IN NEXT 48 HOURS.

9. ON POLITICAL FRONT, SARKIS VISITS FRANJIEH JULY 20,  
FEAST OF ST. ELIE, FOR FIRST TIME IN OVER A MONTH.  
MEETING ATTENDED BY FR. YOUAKIM MOBARAK WHO FOR PAST  
WEEKS HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN CEASEFIRE ATTEMPTS ON SEVERAL  
FRONTS. TWO PRESIDENTS SAID TO HAVE DISCUSSED  
POSSIBILITY OF NEW ARAB LEAGUE INITIATIVE. "ISLAMIC  
GROUP" LEADER YAFI WAFFLES POSITION ON SYRIAN  
INTERVENTION, ATTEMPTING INDIRECTLY DENY SYRIAN PRESS  
REPORT OF GROUP'S FULL SUPPORT OF INTERVENTION.

10. RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO WEST  
BEIRUT MAY BE DELAYED BY DIFFICULTIES IN ROMANIAN FUEL  
PURCHASE. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ELECTRICITY BIZRI SAYS  
HE SEEKING WAYS BRING 250 TONS ZAHIRANI FUEL BY SHIP FROM  
JYEH TO JOUNIEH BUT ENCOUNTERING "TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES."  
HOWEVER, BARBIR (RAS AN-NAB'A) AREA HAD SEVERAL  
HOURS OF ELECTRICITY YESTERDAY AND POWER IN AUB/HAMRA  
AREA TURNED ON AT 12:30 TODAY.  
SEELYE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BEIRUT06479  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**From:** BEIRUT  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760738/aaaabhfk.tel  
**Line Count:** 274  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 BEIRUT 6447  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 MAR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LEBANESE SITUATION JULY 21: PALESTINIANS AND SYRIANS STILL AT LOGGERHEADS; GENERALLMILITARY LULL EXCEPT IN METN;  
**TAGS:** MILI, PINS, PINT, LE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006